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Tirunelveli district—

14. Vambar (not working—under Tuticorin).
15. Vaipur (not working—under Tuticorin).
16. Tuticorin (Port Trust).
17. Kulasekharapattinam.

Kanyakumari district—

18. Colachel.
19. Kovalam.
20. Manakudy.

(*b*) Rs. 6,71,673.

(*c*) Yes, Sir.

(*d*) *Nagapattinam Port*.—(1) Provision of pier with mobile sand pump for entrance channel—estimated cost Rs. 7 lakhs.

(2) Acquisition of two mobile cranes for handling steel billets Rs. 80,000.

Cuddalore Port.—(1) Provision of groynes and pier with mobile sand pump—Estimated cost Rs. 15,00,000.

(2) Provision of 2-ton electric crane.

(3) Providing revetment round the spoil island.

(4) Water-supply to ships.

Pamban Port.—Dredging a sand bank channel at Pamban Port —Estimated cost Rs. 2,81,000.

Tuticorin Port.—Development of the port into a 20 feet harbour is under consideration. Results of experimental borings are awaited.

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 375 asked by Sri N. K. Palanisami at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 19th March 1958, page 181 supra.]

The total forest area in Madras State before the reorganization of States, i.e., before 1st November 1956, was 5,650,842 acres (8,829·44 square miles). The present area of forests in this State is 5,269,547 acres (8,233·66 square miles). Steps are being taken to increase the forest wealth by following a policy of conserving, improving and increasing the existing area under forests. The Second Five-Year Plan schemes of the Forest department all aim at the improvement of forest wealth.

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2. The Plan consists of the following thirteen schemes :—

(1) *Expansion of planting activities* of valuable commercial timber species such as teak, etc.

(2) *Creation of river, canal and lake fringe forests.*

(3) *Development of matchwood plantations.*

(4) Creation of *industrial plantations.*

(5) *Rehabilitation of degraded forests, etc.*

(6) *Reclamation of eroded lands, etc.* :—

(i) Afforestation of dry fuel forests, etc.

(ii) Development of fodder and pasture.

(iii) Reconnaissance survey of eroded lands outside reserved forests.

(iv) Construction of residential accommodation.

(7) *Cashew cultivation.*

(8) Extension of *casuarina plantations.*

(9) *Development of modern technique of timber extraction and communication.*

(10) *Development of forest administration working plans.*

(11) *Creation of fodder banks and improvement to grazing.*

(12) Lac cultivation.

(13) Preservation of wild life.

3. The several afforestation schemes included in the Second Five-Year Plan aim at better forest management based on scientific principles with a view to re-clothe the denuded area, improve and expand the existing forest resources of fuel and timber required for domestic and industrial consumption. The Plannning Commission has approved a sum of Rs. 134·61 lakhs to be spent on forest during the Plan period. The Government have approved an allotment of a sum of Rs. 0·52 lakh for extension of some of the schemes in Kanyakumari district. The Chief Conservator of Forests has submitted proposals for extending teak cultivation in Shencottah taluk.

4. The schemes in the Plan are making good progress.

5. The Government have also laid down a rigid policy of not de-reserving forest areas except when required for irrigation projects. Generally a policy of extending and improving forests and planting of more trees on lands not classed as forest is being pursued. Even so the area under forests which is only about 14 per cent cannot be significantly increased.